

schools, Alexandria City Public Schools; and Harold Decker, chief executive officer, American Red Cross.

**Statement on the Death of
John Robson**

March 20, 2002

I am deeply saddened by the death of John Robson. John was a man of true character and integrity. Serving four Presidents with dedication and honor, most recently as Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, John set an example of distinguished public service. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Margaret, and to his son, Doug. He will be missed.

**Statement on the Observance of
Nowruz**

March 20, 2002

I send warm greetings to Iranian-Americans and the Iranian people observing Nowruz, the traditional Persian New Year.

This year's observance occurs at a time when our Nation is united in its determination to make the world safe from terrorism. The community of more than one million Iranian-Americans has fully participated in this noble endeavor by condemning the terrorist acts, participating in rescue efforts at Ground Zero, and offering help and support to the victims, who included individuals of Persian heritage.

From arts and education to industry and science, Iranian-Americans have made significant and enduring contributions to the cultural and civic life of our Nation. Your observance of the traditional Persian New Year honors an ancient and storied history and marks a time of renewal. As the season changes, may your observance of Nowruz serve as a special time for you to reflect on your rich heritage and to enjoy the company of family and friends.

**Statement on the Observance of
Nowruz**

March 20, 2002

I send warm greetings to Afghans and Afghan-Americans observing Nowruz.

This year's observance occurs during a period of trial, when the people of Afghanistan and the United States are joined in our determination to make the world safe from terrorism. Afghans have shown extraordinary courage in helping to rid their country of the Taliban and Al Qaida. We will continue to help Afghanistan become a stable, prosperous, and free country. And we will support Afghanistan in its effort to protect itself from becoming a base for international terrorism.

This Nowruz will be particularly special to millions of Afghans. Throughout their history, Afghans have observed Nowruz. But the Taliban had forbidden Afghans from following this treasured part of their heritage. Next week, for the first time in many years, Afghans will be free once more to celebrate this time-honored tradition.

Afghanistan's observance of the traditional New Year honors an ancient and storied history and marks a time of renewal. As the season changes, may the observance of Nowruz serve as a special time for Afghans to enjoy their newfound freedom and the company of family and friends.

Best wishes for a memorable Nowruz.

**Statement on Senate Passage of
Campaign Finance Reform
Legislation**

March 20, 2002

Like many Republicans and Democrats in the Congress, I support commonsense reforms to end abuses in our campaign finance system. The reforms passed today, while flawed in some areas, still improve the current system overall, and I will sign them into law.

The legislation makes some important progress on the timeliness of disclosure, individual contribution limits, and banning soft money from corporations and labor unions, but it does present some legitimate constitutional questions. I continue to believe the best reform is full and timely disclosure of campaign contributions.

Statement on the Proposed “Housing Affordability for America Act of 2002”

March 20, 2002

I commend Chairman Oxley, Housing Subcommittee Chairwoman Roukema, and Congressman Green for introducing H.R. 3995, the “Housing Affordability for America Act of 2002,” and look forward to working with them on the bill in the legislative process. Increasing housing opportunities for all Americans is a high priority for my administration. In particular, I am committed to increasing the opportunities for minority families to become homeowners.

The purchase of a home is a unique commitment that benefits the homeowner and the community and ultimately the Nation. My budget contains proposals designed to increase homeownership and affordable housing opportunities. Through their hard work on the “Housing Affordability for America Act of 2002,” Chairman Oxley, Chairwoman Roukema, and Congressman Green have joined in this worthy effort.

Executive Order 13260—Establishing the President’s Homeland Security Advisory Council and Senior Advisory Committees for Homeland Security

March 19, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. President’s Homeland Security Advisory Council.

(a) *Establishment and Membership.* I hereby establish the President’s Homeland Security

Advisory Council (PHSAC). The PHSAC shall be composed of not more than 21 members appointed by the President. In addition, the Chair and the Vice Chair of the National Infrastructure Advisory Council; the Chairman of the President’s National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee; and the Chair of the Panel on the Science and Technology of Combating Terrorism, President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, shall serve as ex officio members of the PHSAC. The appointed members of the PHSAC shall be selected from the private sector, academia, professional service associations, federally funded research and development centers, non-governmental organizations, State and local governments, and other appropriate professions and communities.

(b) *Chair and Vice Chair.* The President shall designate a Chair and Vice Chair from among the appointed members of the PHSAC.

(c) *Senior Advisory Committees.* (i) *Establishment and Membership.* The following four Senior Advisory Committees for Homeland Security (SACs) are hereby established to advise the PHSAC: (1) State and Local Officials; (2) Academia and Policy Research; (3) Private Sector; and (4) Emergency Services, Law Enforcement, and Public Health and Hospitals. Each SAC shall generally be composed of not more than 17 members selected by the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security (Assistant). The President may establish additional SACs as appropriate, consistent with this order.

(ii) *Chairs and Vice Chairs.* The Assistant shall from time to time designate a Chair and Vice Chair for each of the SACs from among the PHSAC’s members.

(iii) *Subcommittees.* The Chair of each SAC, in consultation with the PHSAC, may as appropriate establish subcommittees to advise the SAC.

Sec. 2. Functions. The PHSAC shall meet periodically at the Assistant’s request to:

(a) provide advice to the President through the Assistant on developing and coordinating the implementation of a comprehensive national strategy to secure the United States from terrorist threats or attacks;